(b) whether Government have formulated any new scheme to promote small and medium industries;

(c) if so, the details of such scheme; and

(d) the concrete steps taken by Government to provide facilities to small and medium industrial units for converting themselves into big industrial units keeping in view the important role played by them in providing employment to the people?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) The Government has announced a 'Policy Package for Stepping up Credit to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)' on 10th August, 2005. The measures in the Policy Package to increase the quantum of credit to SMEs include: (i) public sector banks to fix their own targets for funding SMEs in order to achieve a minimum 20 per cent year-on-year growth in credit to the SME sector, (ii) public sector banks to follow a transparent rating system with cost of credit linked to the credit rating of the enterprises, (iii) commercial banks to make concerted efforts to provide credit cover on an average to at least 5 new tiny, small and medium enterprises at each of their semi-urban/urban branches per year, (iv) adoption of cluster-based approach by banks for SME financing.

(b) to (d) To facilitate the promotion and development of micro and small enterprises (MSEs), the Government has recently announced a 'Package for Promotion of Micro and Small Enterprises' with an objective to provide full support in areas of credit, technology upgradation, marketing, infrastructure, etc. The Package, *inter alia* contains various measures aimed at making the MSE sector more competitive. Further, the Government has enacted the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006 which has since come into force from 2nd October, 2006 and provides for facilitating the promotion and development and enhancing the competitiveness of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). These measures are expected to further strengthen the MSME sector and provide an enabling environment for small and medium industrial units for graduating into large industrial units.

Disease due to excess consumption of Vitamin A

† 1465. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the last April-May, 2007 in Nara Indira area of Nagpur city in Maharashtra around 50 children caught by an unknown disease due to consumption of Vitamin A dose;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry was made to ascertain the cause of this disease; and

(c) the steps taken to save the children from this disease in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) A Statewide drive was organized for Vitamin A supplementation on 7th May for children below 6 yrs.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

73 children complained of headache, pain in abdomen and vomiting from the Indira Nagar Area of the Nagpur City, Maharashtra. They were examined at the outpatient department of the Mayo Hospital.

7 out of the 73 children were admitted for a day for observation and then discharged the next day.

(b) An inquiry was made to ascertain the reasons. The findings are as follows:-

1. Rotary club had organized the Vitamin A distribution in the Indira Nagar area of the Nagpur City, Maharashtra. Volunteers from the Rotary Club administered the Vitamin A with the cap of the bottle instead of the specified spoon. This led to over dose as the quantity administered was not measured and thus leading to complaints in children.

2. Since T-Shirts were distributed to children during the drive, some children consumed a repeat dose to get the T-shirt.

(c) Instructions have been issued to take proper care to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future while involving Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) during such campaigns. The volunteers should be trained properly regarding the technical aspects of Vitamin supplementation, precautions, adverse effects etc. NGOs have been directed not to give any gifts during such drives.

Promotion of Swadeshi

1466. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lately reviewed policy regarding prioritization and promotion of Swadeshi;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the steps taken or being taken for approaching Swadeshi-self promotion, which stress on self-reliance in the face of growing global competition during the current and next Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Government (in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) continuously promotes 'Swadeshi' as one of the principal objectives in so far as khadi, village industry and coir products are concerned through its programmes and measures implemented by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and Coir Board.

The steps taken in this direction by the Government (in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) include the implementation of the following schemes through KVIC and Coir Board, in the country:

(i) Schemes for development of Khadi and Polyvastra activities: For this purpose, Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate (ISEC) is issued in favour of implementing agencies for availing institutional finance to